

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02 /070 W

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R 190906Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9605

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 16288

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ORIT, ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: MORE REACTION TO NEW LABOR DECREE

REF: MANILA 16204

1. HARD ON HEELS OF ARCHBISHOP SIN'S PROTEST LETTER TO PRESIDENT MARCOS (REFTTEL), CHURCH CIRCLES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTING A STRONGLY CRITICAL "MEMORANDUM" PREPARED BY JOSE B.L. REYES, RETIRED SUPREME COURT JUSTICE AND IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF INFLUENTIAL INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES. TEXT BEING AIR POUCHED.

2. REYES ASSERTED P.D. 823 "AIMED AT KEEPING LABOR CHEAP AND DOCILE, CONTROLLED BY AND DEPENDENT ON THE BOUNTRY OF THE STATE" AND IT "IN EFFECT IMPOSES ON LABOR NOTING LESS THAN SLAVERY AND INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE." HE ALSO MADE POINT THAT BAN AGAINST FOREIGNERS ENGAGING IN TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES WAS DICRIMINATORY BECAUSE "NO SIMILAR PROHIBITON IS IMPOSED ON MANAGEMENT OR CAPITAL." REYES CHARGED "DECREE APPEARS AIMED AT CURTAILING THE PRO-LABOR ACTIVITIES OF RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS,REGARDLESS OF THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THE ACTIVITIES, WHETHER SUBVERSIVE OR  
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INNOCENT." FINALLY, HE EXPRESSED OPINION DECREE IS

"UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND VOID", ALTHOUGH "PRESENT JUDICIARY"

MIGHT NOT CONCUR.

3. NASSA (NATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR SOCIAL ACTION) SOURCE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, SR. CHRISTINE TAN AND FR. LOPE CASTILLO, HEADS OF WOMEN'S AND MEN'S ASSOCIATIONS OF MAJOR REIGIOUS SUPERIORS (AMRSP), ARE CIRCULATING YET ANOTHER STATEMENT OPPOSING P.D. 823.

4. COMMENT: WHEN QUERIED ABOUT GOP REACTION TO CHURCH OPPOSITION TO P.D. 823, LABOR UNDERSECRETARY AMADO INCIONG EXPRESSED VIEW TO LABATT NOVEMBER 19 THAT CHURCH "OVER-RACTING". SUGGESTION THAT PROVISIONS NEW LABOR DECREE WOULD PREVENT ASSISTANCE TO "SUFFERING WORKERS" WAS MIS-LEADING. BAN WAS AGAINST IMPROPER FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN TRADE UNIONISM AS SUCH, NOT AGAINST HUMANITARIAN AID TO WORKERS. INCIONG WENT ON TO NOTE THAT TRIPARTITE DIS-CUSSIONS ON P.D. 823 IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. HE AGAIN PROMISED THAT AAFLI AND OTHER FOREIGN LABOR EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS WOULD ALSO BE CONSULTED BEFORE FINAL ISSUANCE IMPLUEMENTING RULES. SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR RELATIONS, LAW, TEXT, DISCRIMINATION, COMMUNIQUEs, RELIGIOUS GROUPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MANILA16288  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 75 MANILA 16204  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MORE REACTION TO NEW LABOR DECREE  
**TAGS:** ELAB, RP, (REYES, JOSE B L)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006